

In the Written Description

On page 9, first paragraph, amend as follows:

With the method according to the first aspect of the present invention, in the step (b), the filtering operation is applied to the target pixel and the neighboring pixels in the local area defined in the step (a) while all the pixels in the local area are successively assigned to the target pixel. Thus, the filtered image is outputted. Then, in the steps (c), the filtered image and the input image are mixed together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming the output image.

On page 10, paragraph beginning at line 16 and ending at line 19, amend as follows:

(b) applying a filtering operation to the target pixel and the neighboring pixels in the local area while all the pixels in the local area are successively assigned to the target pixel, thereby outputting a filtered image;

On page 13, paragraph beginning at line 21 and ending at line 22, amend as follows:

(b) a filter for applying a filtering operation to the target pixel and the neighboring pixels in the local area while all the pixels in the local area are successively assigned to the target pixel, thereby outputting a filtered image;

On page 19, paragraph beginning at line 15, amend as follows:

The image mixer 12 mixes the image subjected to the filtering operation in the extractor 11 (i.e., the filtered image) and the input image 1 itself at a mixing ratio specified by the mixing ratio setter 13, generating a mixed image. The mixing operation of the mixer 12 is performed ~~by pixel by pixel~~ for the entire ~~in whole~~ the input image 1. Then, the mixer 12 outputs the mixed or processed image as the output image 3.

On page 21, paragraph beginning at line 10, amend as follows:

Since the median value is defined as a value in the middle of a series of the nine pixel values arranged in order of magnitude of the density levels in the area 1A2-2, the

median value is the density value of the white pixel, as shown in the lower portion of Fig. 3B.
Therefore, the output of the extractor 11 for the target pixel of “black” in the local area 1A2-2 is “white”.